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NOTES AND NEWS

RANUNCULUS CALIFORNICUS, A NEW RECORD FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. — Known as an indicator species for coastal prairies, *Ranunculus californicus* is typically found on the islands in southern California and along the coast in northern California and southern Oregon. Until now, there were apparently only two locality records north of Lincoln County, Oregon: one disjunction from Sauvie Island, near Portland, Oregon (ORE), and one from the Trial Islands, near Victoria, British Columbia (V). Recent exploration has resulted in documentation of seven sites in the Puget Trough of Washington where *Ranunculus californicus* Benth. var. *cuneatus* Greene is locally common to abundant. All sites are open, south to southwest facing grassy bluffs or rocky slopes just above the seacoast, at elevations up to 150 feet.

Although *R. californicus* intergrades with *R. occidentalis* (L. Benson, Amer. Midl. Naturalist 40:1-261, 1948), the features demonstrated by the coastal collections from the Puget Trough are most similar to *R. californicus* in these diagnostic features: petals 5-14, 2-2.5 times longer than wide; nectary glands 0.5-0.8 mm long; and beaks of the achenes 0.5-1 mm long, strongly curved or hooked at the apex. *Ranunculus occidentalis* does occur in nearby areas but not sympatrically with *R. californicus*. The populations show differences in the number of petals per flower and in the proportion of petal length to width. In the populations from Fidalgo and Lopez Islands, the petals number (5-) 8-14 per flower and are typically 2-2.5 times longer than wide. On San Juan Island, the petals usually number 5-8 (-11) and are about two times longer than wide. The San Juan Island populations show greater similarity to *R. occidentalis* than do other populations. Further study of this complex is needed to explain the interpopulational variation.

Specimens of *R. californicus* var. *cuneatus* from Washington, all at WTU: SAN JUAN Co. Lopez Island: Iceberg Point, 8 May 1974, *Denton* 3420, 17 Apr 1976, *Denton* 3975; Point Colville, 17 Apr 1976, *Denton* 3802. San Juan Island: west slope of Mt. Dallas, 5 May 1974, *Denton* 3407, 1 May 1976, *Elvander* 602; San Juan County Park, west side of island, 6 May 1976, *Lerner* 152; English Camp, northwest side of island, 6 May 1976, *Lerner* 151. SKAGIT Co. Fidalgo Island: Deception Pass, 17 Apr 1976, *Denton* 3814; Fidalgo Head, 17 Apr 1976, *Denton* 3813.

I am grateful to R. E. Norris who informed me of an "unusual" buttercup on Iceberg Point of Lopez Island, to C. L. Hitchcock for verifying my identifications, and to R. L. Taylor at UBC and the curators at ORE, OSC, UBC, WS, and V for information about their collections of *R. californicus*. — MELINDA F. DENTON, Department of Botany, University of Washington, Seattle 98195.